

Madame Chairperson,
Committee Members

My name is Allen Casteel, I am a denturist from Great Falls. I'd like to talk about fairness and equality.

In 1984 the citizens of Montana decided to recognize, by passing I-97, what was then a new profession in Montana. They created what was meant to be a profession separate from dentistry.

Denturistry has our practice act, our own statutes, our own training, education programs and we once had our own regulatory board.

The ADA, by extension the MDA and by extension, dentist board members have always been and remains opposed to denturistry in any form, and they continue to oppose any effort in any venue. The MDFA bylaws require that any dentist recommended to the Governor for appointment must be a MDA member.

I am not here today asking for special treatment. I am asking you to do the right thing for our profession and put us back on equal footing and as an equal partner on the patient's dental team, just as the citizens of Montana originally voted for.

Numbers of licensees should not be an issue. Balance relating to separate professions should be the issue you are considering.